

I
Borough of Kendal

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1970

Stricklandgate House, P.O. Box 18, Kendal

Telephone Number: Kendal 23502

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON LTD.

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NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Borough in acres	...	...	...	...	3,705
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	...	...	18,599
Population (Registrar-General's mid year estimate)					20,480
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	7,730
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£869,551
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£3,500
Rate in the Pound levied	...	...	...	13/6d.-15/2d.	
of which the County Rate was	...	...	...	9/8d.	

Kendal is picturesquely situated in the valley of the River Kent, the greater part being on the west bank built on ground rising steeply in a series of terraced houses up Kendal Fell to about 500 feet above sea level. The buildings on the east bank are situated on undulating lowlands rising from 137 feet to 200 feet contour. The dale of Kendal runs north to south with the level of the eastern boundary between 300 and 600 feet above sea level.

The geology of the Borough is sharply divided by the Fellside. The steep eminence of Kendal Fell on the west is composed of carboniferous limestone which represent remains of the dome which once covered the Lake District, and the sharp division is caused by a fault in this system. To the east of this fault denudation has taken place and the out-cropping rocks are Kirkby Moor Flags of the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System. Alluvial deposits and some Basement Conglomerates form the small northern area of the Borough.

The climate is mild, the town is sheltered by the Fell from the prevailing westerly winds, and the open aspect to the south provides full access to sunlight. Temperature gradient inversions are frequent at night but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall normally varies between 50 and 55 inches a year and light falls of snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter. The low-lying land in the north of the Borough is liable to flooding when the River Kent is in spate.

Economically Kendal serves a treble function. Primarily it is a market town, being situated in the heart of the southern portion of Westmorland and the centre of a large agricultural community within a radius of some eight miles. Secondly it is an important stopping place on the main road, with very seasonal peak-loads of tourist traffic. Thirdly Kendal has become an important centre of light industries which have guaranteed constant employment to the inhabitants and brought considerable prosperity to the town.

The local industries include a wide variety of manufacturing processes. There are factories for boots and shoes, hosiery and shirts, carpets, tobacco and snuff, woollen mills, stone and lime works, engineering works, and processing establishments for cream and milk products.

In addition there are ample opportunities for employment in the shops, cafes, hotels and business premises. The variety of these opportunities for both men and women has kept Kendal happily free from general unemployment and provided that economic security and prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices
Madge, F. T.	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Major, J. H.	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.	Chief Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Edleston, R.	M.A.P.H.I. Cert. R.S.H.	Senior Additional Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Winnard, T. G.	M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Green, S.	M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector to 5.6.70	Whole	—
Baron, R. W.	M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector from 10.8.70	Whole	—
Askew, J.	—	Clerk	Whole	—
Mitchell, M.	—	Junior Clerk from 24.7.70	Whole	—
Machell, B. M.	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

Mr. S. Green resigned on 5th June, 1970, to take up another appointment elsewhere and was replaced on 10th August, 1970 by Mr. R. W. Baron in the post of Additional Public Health Inspector.

Miss M. Mitchell was appointed on 24th July, 1970 as Junior Clerk in the Health Department.

VITAL STATISTICS

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for last year for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 3,705

	1969	1970
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	20,160	20,480
Live Births. Legitimate— males	168	169
females	153	183
Illegitimate— males	16	10
females	16	24
Total	353	386
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	17.5	18.8
Corrected Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	18.7	20.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.3	16.0
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 live births	90	90
Still Births. Legitimate— males	—	1
females	2	2
Illegitimate— males	—	1
females	—	—
Total	2	4
Total (live and still) births ..	355	390
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	6	10
Rate for England and Wales ..	13	13
Deaths. males	114	127
females	133	138
Total	247	265
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	12.3	12.9
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	11.6	11.5
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.9	11.7

	1969	1970
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)		
Total deaths under 1 year.. ..	5	6
Rate per 1,000 live births	14	16
Rate for England and Wales	18	18
Legitimate	3	5
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	9	14
Illegitimate	2	1
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	63	29
Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks)		
Total neonatal deaths	4	5
Rate per 1,000 live births	11	13
Rate for England and Wales	12	12
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week)		
Total early neonatal deaths	4	5
Rate per 1,000 live births	11	13
Rate for England and Wales	10	11
Perinatal Mortality		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week.. .. .	6	9
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	17	23
Rate for England and Wales	23	23
Maternal Mortality		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales	0.19	0.18

Deaths from certain causes:— 1969. 1970.

Cancer	...	...	...	...	58	51
Measles	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

The main causes of death were:—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	80
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	51
Cerebro Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	32

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Kendal has grown slowly over the past century. The average rate of growth was about a half per cent, with some acceleration in the more recent years. A few boundary changes have added to the numbers, but the overall picture was one of slow growth.

There were 12,029 residents at the 1861 Census and 18,599 at the 1961 Census. The Registrar-General estimated the current mid year population to be 20,480.

Such overall figures hide the very active tidal flow of residents in and out of the Borough. It has been suggested that this is equivalent to a complete turnover in 20 years. During the five years between 1961 and 1966, over 3,000 people came to live in the town, and over 2,000 people moved out.

The age distribution within Kendal is probably changing now. The last factual count at the 1961 Census showed a higher proportion of elderly people than the national average, 14.2% as against 11.9%, over the age of 65, with women outnumbering the old men by nearly two to one. Although we have no firm figures, I get the impression that the town has now become much more rejuvenated. It is a healthy sign to see Kendal developing as a prosperous and vigorous modern town.

We await with great interest the results of the 1971 Census.

Birth Rate.

The current rate is calculated to make a fair comparison with the rest of England and Wales. On this basis the Kendal birth rate was slightly above the national average in 1970.

Death Rate.

Kendal's death rate has fluctuated near the national average in recent years.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of these figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating. The general level is some measure of the local community health.

Under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulation, 1968, which became operative on 1st October, 1968, Acute Meningitis, Infective Jaundice, Leptospirosis, Tetanus and Yellow Fever were added to the list of diseases required to be notified. Pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia and erysipelas are no longer notifiable.

I am most grateful to my colleagues in general practice, and in the hospital service, for their prompt help in notifying infectious diseases. The control of the more serious of these illnesses is one of the most important duties of our department.

1970 was a fortunate year. There were only 17 cases of measles, scattered throughout the year, and a handful of sporadic cases of scarlet fever and jaundice. One case of meningitis made a successful recovery after hospital treatment.

Immunisation against measles is still too recent to assess its results in our own locality. But we are hoping that it will eventually be as successful as the other immunisations against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis.

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster. Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council and is based in Kendal.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE	Total	Ages										Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-			45-
Measles	17	3	2	5	-	1	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice ..	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	27	3	2	5	-	1	7	5	-	3	1	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ..	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	3	—	—	I	—	—	—	—

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were:—

		1969.	1970.
Respiratory	...	25	26
Non-Respiratory	...	4	5
		—	—
		29	31
		—	—

The Hospital Services.

The Borough lies in the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, and most of the general needs of our local people have historically been met by the Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal. Some of the more specialised services have always had to be referred to distant centres. That has always been understood and accepted by our local community.

In recent years there have been signs that our local folk may be forced to rely more on Lancaster, and less on Kendal. Some people think that Westmorland risks being left rather ill-served if the hospital services concentrate themselves on distant Lancaster and Carlisle. There is a lot of territory in between, and public transport limitations are making it increasingly difficult for outpatients and visiting relatives to get to those hospitals and home again the same day.

The other side of the story is the fact that modern science has caused the hospital services to become more specialised, with expensive equipment and highly trained staff. Yet our national political system has not been able to keep pace with the shortage of doctors and nurses, technicians and secretaries. Both money and manpower are falling short of the needs.

One special service which has caused us the greatest worry has been the provision of hospital beds for our elderly people. Not only for their own sake to be looked after somewhere near their homes, but also for the sake of their visitors, who are often elderly themselves.

Since the National Health Service started, a generation ago, our elderly people have gone into the geriatric hospital at Kendal Green as their first choice for a medium or long stay hospital bed. A few may have gone into Westmorland County Hospital for treatment of acute conditions, or perhaps to Lancaster or other distant centres for diagnostic assessment or some special treatment: but Kendal Green Hospital has been the mainstay for our local geriatric needs.

The hospital authorities' 1962 plans for closing Kendal Green Hospital were vigorously opposed by our Westmorland folk, with the result that it has been reprieved for a long time ahead, by refurbishing and plans for building extensions. This has provided a much better standard of comfort and service for the patients, and efficient working conditions for the staff.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your district, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with substandard houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

The Pattern of Housing.

About 40% of Kendal houses are under 25 years old: some 2½ thousand of them having been built since the 1939-45 War, and therefore fairly well equipped with modern amenities. The municipal housing estates of Hallgarth and Sandylands were built during that time. In the more recent years private development with estates and groups of houses has flourished vigorously.

The middle third of Kendal's houses are between 30 and 50 years old. They include the municipal housing estates of Castle Grove, Rinkfield and Kirkbarrow, as well as a lot of houses built by private enterprise. The older components of this group lack modern amenities to varying extent. They seem well worth improving.

Most of the remaining quarter of Kendal houses were built before the 1914-18 War, and many back into the Victorian era. Many of them lack modern amenities, they are awkward in design, and are showing increasing signs of their fabric perishing. Some of them in the 80 to 100 years group are getting to the stage when they will not be worth saving. They are becoming the clearance problems of the next twenty years.

A small number now remains of Kendal houses which were built more than 100 years ago. They are mostly in poor structural condition, and badly sited in the remnants of ancient yards. Most of them are now condemned and vacant. Some may be preserved for architectural or historical interest, some may be saved by opening up the surrounding area, many are being converted to non-habitation uses, many are awaiting demolition. Picturesque though they may look, there is not much hope for century-old substandard hovels of a bygone way of life. Certainly not to expect people to go on living in them.

A lot of houses in Kendal are occupied by only one or two persons. The 1961 Census revealed that 901 houses contained only one occupier,

and that another 1,957 houses had only two people living in them. Thus over one-third of the houses in the town would seem to be under-occupied for their size.

About half the houses in the Borough are owner-occupied, and about a third are owned by Kendal Corporation for letting to tenants. Private lettings are less than a tenth, and there are a few service houses to complete the picture. It will be interesting to see what changes will be revealed by the 1971 Census.

But the pattern of Kendal's housing can no longer be looked for only within the Borough boundary. The neighbouring areas of South Westmorland and Windermere are considerably used as dormitories for Kendal. This overspill must be taken into account for the proper understanding of Kendal's place in the economy of the southern half of Westmorland.

The General Picture of Slum Clearance.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 1,400 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these have been demolished or converted to trade use, but some of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards.

In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house whenever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity, the sooner it is swept away the better.

Slum Clearance Progress in Kendal.

Kendal has done well with slum clearance programmes. At the end of the 1939-45 war there were about 5,300 houses in the Borough, including some five or six hundred ancient slum cottages which were between one and two centuries old: dark damp hovels, down sunless yards in the very centre of the town.

Sadly enough there were still people living in them, struggling to bring up young families, prematurely losing their battles against the disabilities of old age, amidst the rising dampness, the disrepair, the cobblestones, and the latrines at the end of a crumbling yard. Over 550 families were rescued and moved to a better way of life.

Kendal Borough		At 31st December 1970	
Postwar Slum Clearance Programme Composition		Slum Clearance Programme	
Completion of slum clearance action started pre-war	84	Action completed by demolition or conversion to other approved use	570
Slum clearance actions started between 1945 and 1st January, 1955	117	Vacant and awaiting demolition	19
Statutory 1956-65 Ten Years Programme actually started on 1st January, 1955	300	Waiting rehousing from occupied condemned houses	13
Extra deteriorations added to the Statutory 1956-65 Programme per Circular 2/60	50	Formal actions pending at year end	3
Further deteriorations to 31st December, 1969 ..	43		
Circular 92/69 Four Years Programme	11		
	605		605

But when the priorities of common humanity had been achieved, we were still left with the empty ruins of those cottages and yards, pillaged by the vandals stealing whatever took their fancy, and the inevitable structural deteriorations speeded on towards collapse. Faced by the reproach of such a canker in our midst, and the growing clamour for central urban renewal, a policy of radical clearance was adopted.

Our slum clearance work has been done with a rolling programme, which took in its path the various statutory programmes, and the ups and downs of rehousing opportunities. We rolled on inexorably: we got results. A balance sheet of progress is printed on an adjacent page.

For the Record—1970.

For the purpose of departmental record and statutory returns, I have to set out the details of certain slum clearance actions taken during the current year.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

4 closing orders were made during the year. Including the carry over from earlier years, the total number of houses with closing orders and still occupied at 31st December was 4. One house was made fit and closing order cancelled.

Many of these properties can usefully be converted for non-habitation use, and we need to keep a watch that the vacant ones do not become derelict.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

Two undertakings were accepted during the year. The total number of occupied houses subject to such undertakings at the year end was 2 waiting for the tenants to be rehoused. Again there are useful conversion possibilities for these houses, and the same risks of becoming derelict.

Undertakings to execute remedial works.

Housing Act, 1957. Sections 16 and 18.

No offers were made for reconditioning of unfit houses under these sections of the Act. At the year end two such undertakings remained unsatisfied.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No demolition orders were made during the year. Two houses subject to such orders were still occupied. Two vacant premises were awaiting demolition. Two demolition orders were cancelled after the premises had been converted to one fit dwelling.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 42.

Kendal Council have made good progress since the 1939-45 War with clearance areas in the more central parts of the town. Some have been completed and some are still in the throes of physical clearance.

South-East Highgate Clearance Area.

The best news comes from the South-East Highgate Clearance Area. This was the largest zone of central decay in the town, and a compulsory purchase order was confirmed in 1960. At that time there were 89 houses and a lot of other dilapidated buildings, all crowded together in narrow yards. This extensive site was cleared during 1967 and is being redeveloped by Kendal Corporation for new houses and a modern layout of roads, car parks, and open spaces. The designs have been prepared by a famous architect, the new houses are up. It has restored a new life-beat into the heart of Kendal.

North-East Highgate Clearance Area.

The North-East Highgate Clearance Area remains a festering sore in the very middle of Kendal. It used to comprise three long parallel narrow yards, the central one being known as New Bank Yard. They lay on one of the most valuable pieces of land in the centre of the town, immediately behind the Town Hall and Municipal Buildings, as well as at the rear of two main commercial frontages. They used to contain a jumble of little poky damp dark cottages, in which human beings used to live.

In 1962 the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed that these three yards should be a Clearance area and pulled down. He also confirmed a compulsory purchase order, after a public inquiry, for Kendal Council to acquire the parts of the area not already owned by the Corporation, to pull down all the cottages and other buildings, and redevelop the land.

Since 1962 there were various campaigns by preservationists to prevent the execution of the Ministerial Order. During those

years, the three yards deteriorated into an insanitary and dangerous disgrace. The inhabitants of the cottages were progressively rehoused, and nine of the worst hovels were demolished across the width of all three yards, and most of the dividing curtain walls were felled.

The remaining empty houses have become derelict and a structurally dangerous trade building on the site is now fenced off in case it should collapse on the cars parked alongside, or the pedestrians and children who pass that way.

The irony of the whole situation reached a new level when all those remaining buildings on the site of the half-demolished Clearance Area were "listed" as of architectural or historic interest, and by process of law on the last day of 1968 could be pulled down only with the consent of the Local Planning Authority . . . who refused it early in 1969.

The new legislation raised a point which affects not only our departmental duties in slum clearance and the Council's obligation to execute a Ministerial Order to demolish New Bank Yard. It raises a question of principle, because we have other "listed" houses elsewhere in Kendal which are subject to ministerially confirmed Orders for clearance.

It has become a ridiculous situation when a government ministry confirms an Order requiring premises to be pulled down, and the County Council are supposed to do so in default: and then for the County Council as Local Planning Authority to refuse consent for demolition. It might have been thought that such anomalous cases would have been called in for planning decision by the Minister.

This impasse continued throughout the whole of 1970, and we are now entering the tenth year since the Minister confirmed the clearance area. Thousands of pounds of revenue must have been lost by the failure to redevelop this valuable central urban site, physical dangers and deplorable eyesores have been allowed to accumulate there. The sore festers on.

I am not so concerned what shape the ultimate redevelopment shall take. All I wish to see now is the removal of the dangers and risks to public health on this half-cleared site.

A welcome improvement was made during the year, on the half that had been cleared. The mud and boulders were levelled off and covered to make temporary car parks in between the ruins. There are some hopeful signs now that the remaining tottering and derelict buildings will be demolished before they fall down of their own accord. It would be nice to think so.

Allhallows Lane Clearance Area.

This clearance area extends round the corner of Allhallows Lane and Low Fellside. A compulsory purchase order was confirmed by the Minister in 1967, and since then the occupiers have been rehoused. The buildings are rapidly deteriorating, and it is hoped that they can be demolished before they endanger the users of the narrow street of Low Fellside particularly because the opposite side of the road is being improved by demolition of the old granary, and Fellside is starting a new life with an ambitious housing development scheme. It would seem sensible to tidy the whole lot up at the same time.

Future Programmes.

I do not see the likelihood of more clearance areas of any considerable size in Kendal during the next five years. Our efforts will probably be directed towards the pruning out of little pockets of slum property.

Not many traditional Kendal yards are now left. Some of the older and more tolerable ones are themselves falling into disrepair and so may not be suitable much longer for people to live in. I have pointed out examples of these which might well be saved, but time is running short and there are not many encouraging signs of owners showing the colour of their money for restoration. I can do no more but give fair warning.

Circular 92/69 required your Council to furnish an estimate of slum clearance for the next four years period 1970-1973. As we had already virtually completed our post-war programme, we estimated that there will probably be only 10 to 15 houses per year needing formal condemnation action, and even then some of them may well be saved by reconditioning. Such is the short-term outlook.

But the long-term prospects suggest that Kendal will have to face another radical slum clearance drive before the 20th century is over. We may be patting ourselves on the back at the moment, and enjoying a lull from the fray, but our quarter of a century post-war achievement really represents the replacement of only some 12% of the houses existing in 1945.

Replacement at that rate of progress would imply that the habitable life of an ordinary house is about 200 years. Although we have been working with a few in that age group, we know from our practical experience with the bulk of slum houses that their usual life is very much less, often between 100 and 150 years for the serious decay of

the structure. Some become obsolete for reasons of intrinsic design or layout on their site, but mostly their fabric had perished beyond repair.

Whether late Victorian and more modern building materials will survive better is of course problematical, but my guess is that the ordinary type of house will be looking equally tatty and crumbling when it is over 100 years old, and I doubt if many will last until they are 200 years old. And who will want them to?

So it will soon behove us to look around and see which areas of Kendal are likely to need clearing before the turn of the century, less than 30 years hence. We hear a lot of problematical talk about the possibilities of building houses further out in the rural fringe to boost the population, but I am drawing attention to the cold realities of certainty for central housing renewal. Time will soon overtake our older houses: and us. We ought to start thinking about it.

Make Do and Mend.

Until all the responsible authorities can gear their minds to the needs of the 21st century, we are trying to tide people over with improvised short-term measures to jolly many of the older houses along for a while.

Standard grants are given for certain defined improvements if the house looks like lasting out the next 15 years: to provide a water closet, hot water systems, bath or shower, hand washbasin, and sink.

Discretionary grants for more extensive improvements may be given if the house is likely to last out for the next 30 years: to the turn of the century.

As many of the occupiers will not themselves last out to the 21st century, these improvement grants are a merciful attempt to make conditions more tolerable. But the procedure must be seen as nothing more than a stop gap device. The proper long-term solution must be total replacement of obsolete houses which no longer look like measuring up to the standards of the next generation.

The Wider Issues.

I am not convinced about the validity of desperate measures to cling to the brand image of Kendal as a quaint folk-museum of bygone days for seasonal visitors. The prosperity and future of Kendal depends on keeping our feet on the ground all the year round, rolling up our sleeves, exporting shoes and turbines, fabrics, food and machines, and being what we have always been, a thriving market

town for the prosperous agricultural area which surrounds us, and an important supply centre for the Lake District.

That is what will keep bread and butter in the mouths of Kendal folk, and a fair share of jam as well. That is what will keep our own young people here to stay and give us a hand with the job: without them there will be no future. They rightly demand that Kendal shall move with the times, keep with it, and press on smartly towards the twenty-first century. Such things are the essence of public health.

So it is particularly heartening to see your Council, and the Kendal Civic Society, and many private individuals brightening up our urban environment with a policy of Fix up, Paint up, Plant up, and Cheer up.

The General Need for New Houses.

The building of more new houses is the only practicable way of keeping pace with the future deterioration which must inevitably occur.

Beyond that I hope Kendal will remain clear-headed about why houses are wanted. I have dealt very fully with the slum clearance need, so I shall go on with the other reasons which also have made an impact on the public health.

There are the families who have not a separate house of their own, and who have to share with others. These people have constituted the bulk of the applicants on your official housing waiting lists since the 1939-45 war.

Then there are the people who are now living in quite good houses of their own, or even in Corporation houses, who would like to change it for something different. But even after all these internal reshuffling problems have been worked out, there are still a lot of other people whose housing applications must be assessed in any long-term appreciation of Kendal's needs.

There are the people who work in Kendal and commute daily from the dormitory areas of South Westmorland Rural District, Windermere, Lakes and Sedbergh. Some 3,000 of them travel daily, and most of them have other members of their families at home. So when you come to decide whether you want to coax the commuter class back into the town, you will have to take a lot of factors into consideration.

The next class to consider are the people who wish to live in Kendal for the joy of it, or who wish to use it as a base to work elsewhere. You may think that they have no great economic attraction for you. But if they come, they will need houses. Probably private enterprise will meet their needs.

But there is a final class which may turn out to be one of the most important in your long-term plans, the future labour force for this area: not only for your existing industries, but also if you cherish any hopes for expansion. I regard the economic prosperity of Kendal as one of the most significant factors in maintaining the public health.

But I cannot stray too far down the byways of Kendal's social scene, except to illustrate my very sincere belief that one cannot divorce public health from the ways in which our own folk keep a roof over their heads and bread and butter in their mouths.

The Special Needs for Old People.

Both Kendal Corporation and voluntary organisations in the town have done a lot of good work in providing special houses for the elderly, but a lot more needs doing to keep pace with the increasing proportion of old people in the community. I suggest that purpose-designed bungalows and ground-floor flats are still much needed, with low fittings, handrails, lever door-handles, easy gradient steps, and suchlike special fittings.

I believe furthermore that the time has come for Kendal Borough to provide some group of semi-dependency type houses for old people, with a resident welfare warden available in case of need.

This service has proved its worth in the three neighbouring districts of Windermere, Lake and South Westmorland: and I believe it would do so equally well in Kendal.

It would relieve the burden on geriatric hospital beds, and upon the Welfare Hostels, besides conferring the gesture of at least semi-independence to the elderly citizens of Kendal. It would recognise their dignity. I urge you to think on such lines.

This Year's New Houses.

During the current year 44 new houses were built by the Corporation and 164 by private enterprise. Conversions produced 2 extra dwellings.

Housing Management.

The Corporation own 2,332 houses, which require increasing attention. Many visits were made by the Public Health Department during the year in connection with the public health aspects of housing management on the municipal estates. The rents of your houses range between 17/- and £2. 6s. 5d. exclusive of rates. The rateable values vary between £29 and £78.

Your Council offer a rent rebate scheme for cases of genuine financial hardship, and, of course, many tenants receive extra help from the Department of Health and Social Security. There is now no reason why any person should be denied decent accommodation because of lack of money. Such is the Welfare State.

Housing Nuisances.

65 visits were made to investigate complaints in houses, leading to the service of 4 informal notices, and no Statutory notices, for their remedy. In no case was it necessary to obtain a Court Order.

Verminous Houses.

There were no cases requiring action during the year.

Rents Acts.

During the year no new application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received.

Several cases were noticed when the necessary entries prescribed by the Housing and Rent Restriction Acts were not entered in rent books. All these were rectified upon the department's intimation to the agents or landlords.

Qualification Certificates, 1969.

Under the 1969 Housing Act qualification certificates were introduced which when granted enabled landlords of tenanted property to receive a fair rent for their properties as assessed by the Rent Officer. During the year your Council dealt with 1 such certificate.

Dangerous Buildings.

The operation of these provisions lies with the Borough Engineer, as far as the formal procedures of the Act are applied, but the Health Department often has a coincidental interest in some of these premises.

Dilapidated Buildings and Neglected Sites.

Public Health Act, 1961. Section 17.

There are a lot of dilapidated buildings and walls which seem either to present physical dangers or to be a deplorable spectacle. Most of these are within half a mile of the Town Hall.

The co-operation of all departments is needed to bring the necessary pressure to bear on people to do the right thing with their decrepit property.

Caravans and Camping.

Normally caravans cause little trouble, because most of them simply pass through the town on their way to other parts of the countryside. But to cater for overnight halt of touring visitors, there is a small site at Millcrest on the A6 Shap Road for five caravans.

One permanent residential site for 15 caravans is operated at Oxenholme: it really only reflects the housing shortage. There are no licences in force for individual caravan sites. There are no tented camping sites.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Since 1962 the public water supply has been administered by the Lakes and Lune Water Board on which your Council has representation. I record my appreciation of the help and liaison maintained by the officers of the Board.

Kendal has an abundant water supply because there is a connection to the Manchester Corporation aqueduct to augment the limited local overground and underground sources.

The overground sources are upland surface from rather restricted catchment areas on the Silurian rocks to the east of the town, where the yield is usually insufficient to keep the storage reservoirs full at Fisher Tarn and Birds Park.

The underground source is a very shallow open well, sunk about 10 feet into the subsoil and alluvial gravel alongside the River Kent, and now getting surrounded by industrial and housing development. Some of the water is used as a direct supply to two large dairy factories, some is fed direct into the public water main, and the rest is pumped up to the Birds Park reservoir.

Thus insofar as the quantity of water is concerned, I advise your Council being satisfied in your statutory duty to ascertain that the water supplies in the Borough are sufficient.

Your Council has the further statutory duty to ascertain that the water supplies in the Borough are wholesome. By liaison with the Lakes and Lune Water Board, periodical tests are made on samples of water from consumers' taps in the town, and some typical results are set out in Appendix A at the end of this report. A similar liaison with one of the large dairy factories for regular routine checks, and various other sporadic tests are made to build up a picture of the effectiveness of sterilisation treatment to safeguard the public health.

The quality of the treated water is usually excellent. The upland gathering-ground carry a minimal risk of human excretal pollution: the storage time in the reservoirs favours natural purification: the subsequent distribution system includes chemical sterilization with chlorine.

My duty as a medical officer of health requires me to look deeper than just a record of recent satisfactory bacteriological tests on the public water supply. I must look critically at the whole range of safeguarding the public health from waterborne disease. I have no statutory responsibility towards the Lakes and Lune Water Board, which is a separate authority in its own right, and no obligations on its behalf.

Consequently I have to regard the Board like any other purveyors of food and drink to consumers in Kendal.

I am assured that the Lakes and Lune Water Board imposes a vigorous routine medical check of all waterworks employees, and special care is taken to sterilise the mains after repairs or replacements, and to maintain a safe level of residual chlorine in the water when it reaches the consumers' taps. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has recently revised and defined the safeguards to be adopted in the operation and management of waterworks. I remain most appreciative of such helpful measures adopted by the Water Board.

One organisational difficulty has become apparent since the public water supplies undertaking was transferred to the Lakes and Lune Water Board from Kendal Corporation. This arises out of the fact that the Water Board does not employ a medical officer with whom the medical officer of health, in the areas covered by supply, can consult on the medical aspects of safeguarding and epidemiological control. This may reflect the limitations of Water Boards as at present constituted, but it is a point which I draw to the attention of the central government Ministries and departments concerned with water safeguarding.

A specific instance on which I am having increasing foreboding, is the safety of the shallow well at Mint's Feet. In recent years there has been steady encroachment of the nearby industrial estate, and new housing development. Nothing more can be done to protect the presumptive gathering ground of local subsoil and river terrace gravel. The river itself is carrying sewage effluents and industrial wastes from the upstream areas, and the whole shallow well is liable to occasional floods.

The state of the raw water at Mints Feet Well might not be quite so significantly risky if it could all be treated with two or more lines of defence. The safeguards have diminished in certain respects in recent years.

When the earlier primitive arrangements were radically revised about a decade ago, the agreed procedure was for all the water abstracted from Mints Feet Well to be given a high dose of chlorine there before being pumped up a newly-built rising main into Birds Park reservoir, where it was diluted with the water from other sources and had further natural purification. Then the water from Birds Park was all hypochlorinated in the distribution system before reaching to town. I was satisfied with such a procedure.

Various changes occurred during the past ten years, apart from the building development encroachments towards Mints Feet Well. The first crack in the security procedure happened when engineering factors caused a direct water pipe connection from the shallow well to serve two newly-built large factories nearby, both registered dairies. Although the Water Board takes reasonable precautions to render the water safe, I have advised the dairy factories to maintain their own checks and vigilance to ensure that the water is at all times suitable for their special requirements.

The second crack in security was when the rising main from Mints Feet Well to Birds Park reservoir was tapped off mid-route to augment the water supply to a newly-built corporation housing estate. The lines of defence have been diminished for the consumers. It is hoped to cut off this direct connection when other distribution mains have been installed.

The Lakes and Lune Water Board combats these imperfections by maintaining extra precautionary measures at Mints Feet Well. The chlorination apparatus is under automatic control, to shut down the pumps on failure, and alert an alarm system. This is certainly a great improvement on the earlier procedure, and goes some way towards diminishing the calculated risks of distributing water from Mints Feet shallow well.

Turning to other aspects of the public water supply which I am required to review in this report. The water is not treated with fluoride, and the natural fluorine content is very low. So is its natural and fall-out radio-active content. A dozen or so houses on the outskirts of the town are served by wells and surface water private installations.

Baths and Hot-Water Systems.

The 1966 Sample Census suggests that there was a welcome improvement since the 1961 Census, and we know that the good work is continuing. Probably about 7% of our houses lack a fixed bath, and about 3% are still without a hot water system. We seem to have caught up with about half the arrears since the 1961 Census, and it will be interesting to see the actual counts in the 1971 Census. A lot of this improvement has been done with the encouragement of standard grants, but some is due to the overall replacement of entire houses.

SEWERAGE.

Most of the Borough is served by public sewers, but about 120 houses remain dependent upon septic tanks. Some of the sewers are overloaded and require enlargement.

A major reconstruction of the sewage disposal works at Wattsfield is being carried out, to provide more filters, humus tanks, and sludge digestion.

Looking ahead towards the turn of the century, and the prospect of some imminent reform of local government, I forecast that this will probably be the last major attempt to recondition Kendal's main sewage works on the Wattsfield site.

It was nicely away out in the country when it was built, but it has since been engulfed by the residential expansion of the town, and its area is cribbed on the other side by the natural banks of the river. Its further major enlargement seems difficult, but more importantly there is the doubt whether it ought to be there anyway.

By the time the loan has been paid off on the capital sunk in the sewage disposal works, I reckon that a larger future local authority will favour alternative proposals for moving the whole process further downstream, and logically picking up sewage from Natland and the likely new development southwards from the present Borough boundary.

Although the inevitable smells and presence of a sewage works may not constitute a serious public health risk, such places were never designed to be sited in the middle of built-up areas, and equally today they are not cheerfully tolerated, even by the people who chose to buy houses alongside. I reckon that in the long term we ought not to continue harbouring this unpleasant historical accident at Wattsfield.

Meanwhile I am grateful to the Borough Engineer for all he does to minimise complaints. He has also the much more important problems of getting the town's sewage down to Wattsfield, through an old sewer system that itself is getting into a poor way in places. It looks an expensive prospect for the years ahead, but waste disposal is one of the most vital duties for safeguarding the public health in towns.

47 other complaints were made to our Health Department during the year regarding drainage. All were investigated and remedied.

Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences fairly well serve the centre of the town. Proper supervision of conveniences is difficult and they have suffered much wanton damage by hooligans. Your Council have been considering the provision of further public conveniences in various other parts of the town, and plans have been prepared.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

With very few exceptions in the remote parts of the Borough there is a weekly removal of refuse. Trade refuse is collected separately at an agreed scale of charges. I wish that everyone would use the service. Too many economisers collect their own little hoards of junk which lie rotting in the Borough, or they slink over the boundary in the dark and dump the stuff in all sorts of odd places around the Rural District.

Refuse Disposal.

Controlled tipping is carried out in an exemplary manner at an old quarry on the Fell Estate. Both the collection and disposal services are administered by the Borough Engineer.

Under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, action was taken in 23 cases of abandoned scrap motor cars dumped within the Borough. The designated place for such scrap and other refuse is the Corporation Tip at Fell Quarry where they will be accepted free of charge.

Street Cleansing.

The main streets are maintained by the staff of the Borough Engineer. The open-air markets cause considerable work but the general appearance of the roads is good. Quite another picture is seen in many of the yards lying behind the main frontage, to which the annual reports of my predecessors for the past ninety years have drawn attention. Kendal is a notorious place for setting up unauthorised refuse dumps in odd holes and corners all over the centre of the town. Any plot of vacant ground seems fair game for dumping trade refuse, dirty mattresses, rags, old ironwork and such like. All our departments have a running battle with these strange bequests. I can see no remedy until Kendal takes its redevelopment opportunities more seriously. A much more liberal scavenging service is sorely needed if tourists are to be invited to peep behind the frontages. All honour to the Kendal Civic Society for organising occasional scavenging forays by volunteers.

FOOD HYGIENE.

General Powers.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most of the traders are aware of the fact. The good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that high standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Ice-Cream.

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale ...	2
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	2
Storage and sale only	122

During the year 11 visits of inspection were made to ice-cream premises. On the whole the position is reasonably satisfactory.

Prepared Meats.

The number of premises on the register under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, pressed meat and pickled foods, was 53 at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

Liquid Eggs.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

Poultry Processing.

There are no poultry processing premises in the Borough.

Food Trade Categories.

The Secretary of State requires me to furnish certain details about the categories of food trade carried on during the year. They are set out in the adjacent table. 85 visits were made during the year.

Regulation 16 relates to the requirement for providing wash-hand basins, and Regulation 19 relates to the requirements for providing facilities for washing food and equipment used in food businesses.

Category of Premises	Number	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 Applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	10	10	10	10
Licensed Hotels and Inns ..	30	30	23	23
Private Hotels	24	24	24	24
Off Licences	7	7	—	—
Industrial Canteens	12	12	12	12
Clubs	9	9	8	8
Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars ..	29	29	29	29
Fish and Chip Shops	6	6	6	6
Grocers	49	49	49	49
Fishmongers, Greengrocers ..	14	14	8	8
Butchers	19	19	19	19
Wholesale Depots	8	8	5	5
Manufacturers, Bottlers Etc. ..	9	9	9	9
Others (Sweets Etc.)	25	(Figures Not Available)		

Milk Registrations.

At the year end there were 64 registered distributors of milk, and 3 registered dairies which were not dairy farms. No particular difficulties were met, and milk-round vehicles were generally maintained in good condition.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Biological and other test results on 214 samples taken by various Authorities, from sources in our area, continued to be passed to me. I have had no cause during the current year to serve any notices under the Milk and Dairies Regulations to restrict the sale of milk or the activities of milk-handlers.

Special attention was directed towards the organisms of brucella abortus in the above samples. None were found.

Licensed Slaughterhouses.

The only slaughterhouse is the public abattoir at Sandylands which also serves various neighbouring areas. It is operated by a large firm of wholesale meat traders, with an exclusive right to use and manage the abattoir, albeit providing a public slaughterhouse service for individual local butchers, and to cope with casualty animals brought in.

Kendal Corporation own the premises, and are the enforcement authority for hygiene and prevention of cruelty regulations, and for meat inspection. The whole time of one public health inspector is spent at the abattoir, on a rota basis between the departmental staff.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food veterinary inspector made regular routine inspections and seemed well satisfied.

Unfit meat is removed direct to manufacturers for sterilisation before retailing as pet food or processing into animal and poultry food. Nevertheless, care should be taken to keep pet food and dishes separate from human food, and wash hands after handling it.

Knackers' Yards.

There are none.

Licensing of Slaughtermen.

10 licences were issued during the year. 7 were to regular slaughtermen and 3 to butchers who might wish to kill occasionally.

Condemnation of Other Food.

886 tins, 787 packets of various foods, 2,564 lbs. of meat products etc. were condemned in shops and warehouses. 88 visits were made for this purpose.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Secretary of State requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial at the Corporation's tip. The meat products are disposed of at a local offensive trades firm.

Condemnation of Meat at the Abattoir

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	4278	1651	52	24,241	11,307
Number inspected ..	4278	1651	52	24,241	11,307
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	29	27	86	70
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	730 (1)	500 (2)	6	1,650 (3)	5,195 (4)
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.2	32.0	63.5	7.2	46.6
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	89
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	0.79
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	22	11	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	3	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

NOTES: The following are not included:—

- (1) 1,746 livers condemned for parasites, etc.
- (2) 1,495 livers infested with parasites.
- (3) 3,726 livers condemned for parasites, etc.
- (4) 1,844 livers infested with parasites.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Establishment.

The establishment of the department was one Chief Public Health Inspector, three Additional Inspectors and two clerks. The strength of the department was maintained for most of the year.

The Chief Inspector has considerable administrative duties, the preparation of material and attendance at your Committees, and his availability for outside duties was restricted. This is the usual position in most authorities.

The senior additional inspector acts as Deputy. All three additional inspectors share the meat inspection duties at the abattoir and the general work. The two Clerks are allocated to spend half their time on Cemeteries administration and the rest on the other duties of the Health Department.

We are now able to maintain a better balance between operations and administration, and deploy our skilled resources to the best advantage. I place on record my appreciation of the valuable services of all our public health inspectors and ancillary staff.

Offensive Trades.

The carrying out of the following trades in the Borough has not given rise to any undue nuisance.

Carcase Boilers	...	...	...	2
Tallow Melter	...	...	...	1
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	2

Factories.

The register of factories has been completely revised and cross checked with the records maintained by H.M. Inspector of Factories at Carlisle, with whom a close working relationship is maintained.

There are 136 factories on our register. 12 inspections were made and two notices were served.

No references were made to H.M. Inspector and two were received from her. No prosecutions were required.

7 outworkers in the clothing trade were notified to your Council by factory owners in the clothing trade.

H.M. Inspector of Factories has been sent details of your Borough's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1961.

Factory Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	5	2	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	127	6	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	2	—
Total	136	12	2	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2) .. Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)					
TOTAL	2	2	—	2	—

Offices and Shops.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This legislation makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these premises. 94 visits were made during the year.

12 accidents were notified to our Health Department, and 5 of them merited further investigation.

Type of Premises	Registered at year end	Inspected during year	Persons Employed
Offices	132	22	1582
Retail Shops	177	25	973
Wholesale shops and warehouses ..	30	2	287
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	27	2	232
Fuel storage depots	1	0	12
Totals	367	51	3086

9 written notices and 11 verbal notices were served for contraven-
tions discovered.

Clean Air.

Several visits were made for smoke abatement and most industrial firms have made commendable improvements. The problem of clean air for Kendal goes deeper than this.

Kendal's position in the Kent valley leads to the cooler air collect-
ing in the lowlying parts at night. From any of the surrounding hill-
sides you can see how the natural ground mist is polluted by the
smoke from domestic chimneys and industrial premises. Sometimes
the valley is clear and sunny both north and south of the town,
while the central areas are dull, with soot in visible suspension in
the air. The Hallgarth Estate is often particularly bad in this way.

I should like us to do all we can to see that Kendal's air pollution
does not become any worse, and I hope that we may be able to
improve it. With one-third of the houses in Kendal now in Corpora-
tion ownership, we seem to have a considerable responsibility. Indeed,
any scheme for enforcing smokeless zones would have to start with

visible goodwill on one of the Corporation's own housing estates. Hallgarth would be the obvious first choice.

Anyone can see with their own eyes, from Windermere Road or Fellside, how the smoke from the household chimneys hangs as a pall over the town on calm days and nights. Sometimes you can even feel it in your lungs down town. Public opinion is growing that this should not be so. Agitation in the local newspapers became more vociferous in 1969, but a national shortage of smokeless solid fuels caused the central government to soft pedal at the time. Meanwhile our Health Department have commenced a cost and feasibility study ready for when the omens look more favourable.

But irrespective of whether, or when, the idea of enforcing smokeless zones may be formally adopted, I must make one point very strongly in connection with the future planning for industrial development of the low-lying land immediately to the north of Kendal.

This land not only contains the ponding overflow areas for flooding at the confluence of the three rivers, the Mint, the Sprint and the Kent; it is also a great ponding area for the cold air which rolls down these valleys, and collects with visible temperature inversions. Its effects can be seen holding down the smoke and fumes from the Burneside mill and the factories at Mint Bridge, and drifting it towards the town.

Therefore I should deplore any further smoke or fume-emitting industrial development in this vulnerable area. There would be no objection to electrically powered factories, without byproduct fumes: but any more solid fuel or oil burning factories, or those with unpleasant fumes, should be barred from development there. The purity and public health safety of Kendal's air and environment depends on minimising the pollution which drifts down the valley towards the town on the mist from this northern basin.

Public Swimming Baths.

The Secretary of State requires me to furnish particulars about public swimming baths. The only one in the Borough is owned and managed by Kendal Corporation. It is filled with fresh water from the public mains, and is then continuously circulated through filters and thoroughly chlorinated. It was built in 1882 and is showing its age.

Proposals are being examined for building a large new swimming bath on another central site in the town. It would be much welcomed.

Pet Animal Shops.

Two shops were licensed. No particular difficulties were encountered in supervision. Raw unfit meat must no longer be sold to the public.

Pest Control.

During the year 506 premises were surveyed under the provisions of the Pest Act, 1949, 55 premises were found to be infested by rats or mice and were treated by the department. Over 800 visits were made; 134 complaints were also investigated.

Common Lodging Houses.

There were none.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47 — Compulsory Removal.

No Court Orders were sought during the year, but several people were under constant supervision.

Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Special liaison is maintained with the Welfare Authority to prevent people from getting into such difficulties. Home-help services, hostels and partial dependency schemes may meet some of the problems. I hope that the harsh step of compulsory removal will be less needed as time goes by. It is so often tantamount to a death warrant.

Public Mortuary and Post-mortem Rooms.

Your Council do not provide any public mortuaries or post-mortem rooms. Adequate facilities are available at the Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal by arrangement.

Burial Grounds.

Your municipal cemetery at Parkside Road is maintained in a creditable state. A start was made on the removal of kerbstones and raised earthen mounds. The response from those possessing burial rights in private plots was good and the progress being made will make the task of grass cutting much easier.

The one in Castle Street gives trouble from time to time: it is rarely used and the chapel is semi-derelict, headstones have deteriorated, and the grass is difficult to keep in proper order, I wish it could be closed.

Although there may not be any actual public health risks, I find it rather distasteful to see various burial grounds and cemeteries neglected around Kendal. It is the living who cause the public health nuisances, not the dead. I wish all these decrepit burial grounds could be tidied up and laid out pleasantly like the fine example set by Kendal Parish Church.

Your Council were exploring the possibilities of establishing a crematorium in the vicinity by co-operation with neighbouring local authorities. I do not see much hope of success before local government reorganisation.

Laboratory Services.

The Public Health Laboratory Service establishments at Preston and Carlisle now serve this area, and do it very well. We are glad of their help.

APPENDIX A LABORATORY EXAMINATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Nature of Test	Standards Max.	Mints Feet Raw Water	Mixed Upland Source	Town Main Mixed Water
Pr. coli count 37°C ..	5-10	0	—	0
Faecal Coli/strep ..	—	—	—	—
Date sampled last ..	—	15.12.70	—	15.12.70
Character	—	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	—	6.7	7.3	7.8
Ammonical Nitrogen ..	.041	Nil	.045	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	.066	.08	.235	.10
Total Solids	1000	128	64	72
Hardness—Total ..	300	86	38	37
Carbonate ..		58	20	26
Non-carbonate		68	26	36
Chlorides	30	13	8	8
Nitrates	1	1.18	.16	.15
Nitrites	—	—	—	—
O.2 Absorbed	1	.08	.84	.76
Heavy Metals	—	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rainfall 24 hours ..	—	.35"	.51"	.09"
Date Sampled	—	29.9.70	10.9.68	28.10.69
Laboratory	—	Preston	Preston	Preston

Chemical analyses expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

